

1. (Currently Amended) An online ordering system for food outlets, comprising:

at least a first computer system which is accessible via the Internet under at least one domain, in which data on food outlets are stored and on which an interactive program runs,

in each case a communication connection which can be established at least temporarily between the computer system and at least a large number of the food outlets covered and which,

is adapted to generate[[s]] an e-mail comprising an order, whereby

a fax is generated from said e-mail by said system or a connected system or a connected fax server, and whereby said system is adapted to connect[[s]] an output device or display device comprising a fax machine at the food outlets to the first computer system, and whereby said system or a connected system or a connected fax server is adapted to transmit[[s]] said fax to said fax machine, whereby

the said system is adapted to send[[s]] a message to the food outlet with the suggestion to check said fax machine if there are problems in the transmission of the order to the food outlet,

wherein said system is adapted to display various categories of food, wherein said system is adapted to receive

a user input of a specific category of the categories of food displayed, and

wherein said system is adapted to respond to the user input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and to display the food outlets which offer the category of food selected.

2. Cancelled

3. (Original) The online ordering system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that an interactive program runs on the first computer system.

4. (Original) The online ordering system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises at least a second computer system, which is connected to the Internet and can communicate with the first computer system.

5. (Original) The online ordering system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the second computer system comprises a fax server.

6. (Original) The online ordering system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the program comprises at least one prompted user program and one unprompted user program.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an online ordering system, ~~in particular of operating the online ordering system as claimed in claim 1~~, comprising the following steps:

display of a start page by said system,

user input of a geographical specification into a device of said system,

response of ~~the~~ said system to the user input on the basis of ~~the stored~~ data on the food outlets being related to said system, which data being stored by said system, and display of the food outlets, preferably within the specified geographical area,

user input into said device in such a way that one of the displayed food outlets is selected,

response of ~~the~~ said system to the user input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and display of the items of food offered by the food outlet selected,

user input in such a way that one of the displayed items of food is selected or a table reservation is made,

response of the said system to the user input and transmission of the order to the food outlet selected, whereby an e-mail is generated comprising an order and a fax is generated from said e-mail by said system or a connected system or a connected fax server, and whereby said fax is transmitted to a fax machine at said selected food outlet, and

whereby the said system sends a message to the food outlet with the suggestion to check said fax machine if there are problems in the transmission of the order to the food outlet,

display of various categories of food by said system,

user input of a specific category of the categories of food displayed, and

response of said system to the user input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and display of the food outlets which offer the category of food selected.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that it also comprises the following step:

transmitting a message to the orderer on the success/failure of passing on the order to the food outlet.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an online ordering system as ~~claimed in claim 7, characterized in that it also comprises~~ comprising the following steps:

display of a start page by said system,

user input of a geographical specification into a device of said system,

response of said system to the user input on the basis of data on food outlets being related to said system, which data being stored by said system, and display of the food outlets, preferably within the specified geographical area,

user input into said device in such a way that one of the displayed food outlets is selected,

response of said system to the user input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and display of the items of food offered by the food outlet selected,

user input in such a way that one of the displayed items of food is selected or a table reservation is made,

response of said system to the user input and transmission of the order to the food outlet selected, whereby an email is generated comprising an order and a fax is generated from said email by said system or a connected system or a connected fax server, and whereby said fax is transmitted to a fax machine at said selected food outlet, and whereby said system sends a message to the food outlet with the suggestion to check said fax machine if there are problems in the transmission of the order to the food outlet,

display of price categories of the food outlets,

user input of a specific category of the price categories displayed, and

response of the said system to the user input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and display of the food outlets which fall into the price categories selected.

12. (Previously Presented) A method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that it also comprises the following step: user input of a delivery time and storage of the same by the system.

13. (Previously Presented) A method of operating an online ordering system as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that it also comprises the following step: user input of a delivery address and storage of the same by the system.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) Use of an online ordering system for food outlets, comprising:

at least a first computer system which is accessible via the Internet under at least one domain, in which data on food outlets are stored and on which a program runs,

in each case a communication connection which can be established at least temporarily between the computer system and at least a large number of all the food outlets covered and which,

generates an e-mail comprising an order, whereby

a fax is generated from said e-mail by said system or a connected system or a connected fax server, and whereby said system,

connects an output device or display device comprising a fax machine at the food outlets to the first computer system, and whereby said system or a connected system or a connected fax server transmits said fax to said fax machine ~~and transmits said fax to said fax machine~~, whereby the said system sends a message to the food outlet with the suggestion to check said fax machine if there are problems in the transmission of the order to the food outlet, ~~for carrying out the method as claimed in claim 7 and~~

wherein said system displays various categories of food,

user input of a specific category of the categories of food displayed, and

response of said system to the user input on the basis of the stored data on the food outlets and display of the food outlets which offer the category of food selected.

16. (Previously Presented) The online ordering system as claimed in claim 1, whereby said message is an electronic voice phone message.
17. (Previously Presented) The online ordering system as claimed in claim 1, whereby said message is an e-mail.
18. (Previously Presented) The online ordering system as claimed in claim 1, whereby said message is a fax message to another fax machine at the food outlet.
19. (Previously Presented) The online ordering system as claimed in claim 1, whereby an orderer is notified on an unsuccessful attempt to fax the order to the food outlet.
20. (Previously Presented) The online ordering system as claimed in claim 19, whereby said orderer is notified by email.
21. (Previously Presented) The online ordering system as claimed in claim 19, whereby said orderer is notified by fax.
22. (Previously Presented) The online ordering system as claimed in claim 19, whereby said orderer is notified by electronic voice by telephone.
23. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, whereby said message is transmitted as electronic voice phone message.
24. (Previously Presented) The online order system as claimed in claim 7, whereby said message is transmitted by email.
25. (Previously Presented) The online order system as claimed in claim 7, whereby said message is a fax message transmitted to another fax machine at the food outlet.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, whereby said message is transmitted by email.

27. (Previously Presented) The online ordering system as claimed in claim 26, whereby said message is transmitted by fax.

28. (Previously Presented) The online ordering system as claimed in claim 26, whereby said message is transmitted by electronic voice by telephone.